Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 COME-00 OPIC-03 TRSE-00

AID-05 CU-02 OES-03 DODE-00 PM-03 OMB-01 USIA-06 PC-01

NSC-05 SP-02 CIEP-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 PA-01 H-02 AGR-05 STR-04 FRB-03 /089 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLMACK:CFE

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

EB/CBA:ADBRAMANTE

E:RMPOATS

COMMERCE/CAGNE:LJENSEN

OPIC: JROFFUTT TREASURY: LATLAS

AID/NESA/NENA:AMSCHWARTZWALDER

CU/NEA: JWHEELOCK

OES/SCI/BMP:MBEAUBIEN

OASD/ISA:COL. SKOGERBOE

USIA/INA:MARANSOM(INFO)

PEACE CORPS:WGARRISON(INFO)

NSC/AHOUGHTON

S/SFORTIZ

S:LPBREMER

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P 231612Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 093073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJECT:U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REFS: (A) STATE 30401; (B) TUNIS 0957; (C) TUNIS 0457

1. SINCE NOUIRA PLANS VISIT WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT ON MAY 1, INAUGURAL MEETING OF JC SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON MAY 2. EITHER NOUIRA OR FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI, IF CHATTI ACCOMPANIES, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TUNISIAN CO-CHAIRMAN, A DECISION WE LEAVE TO GOT. IN EITHER CASE,

SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD BE U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON WOULD BE ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN AND COMMERCE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY CHARLES W. HOSTLER WOULD BE U.S. CHAIRMAN ON ONLY PLANNED SUBORDINATE BODY, THE SUB-COMMISSION OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. MAIN THEME OF JC WOULD BE EXPANDING COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF JC WOULD BE MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOUIRA VISIT, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.

- 2. SINCE THIS WOULD BE INAUGURAL MEETING OF JC, GOT SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE DIALOGUE SEEKING AGREE-MENTS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. INAUGURAL SESSION WOULD BE CONFINED TO A SINGLE MORNING. IN COURSE OF NOUIRA VISIT SECRETARY WOULD HAVE CHANCE TO REVIEW BILATERAL AND REGIONAL RELATIONS WITH HIM. SECRETARY WILL MEET WITH NOUIRA AT DEPARTMENT AT 9:45 A.M. ON APRIL 2. THEY WILL PROCEED TOGETHER TO JOINT COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 AND PRESIDE BRIEFLY OVER ITS OPENING. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY AND NOUIRA USG SPOKESMEN WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) OVERALL REVIEW OF U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONS; (2) APPRAISAL OF EFFORTS TO PROMOTE BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN TUNISIA; (3) CONSULTATION ON THE SCOPE, ORGANIZATION AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF JC. NEA WOULD MAKE FIRST U.S. PRESENTATION, UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TABOR THE SECOND, AND ROBINSON THE THIRD. TUNISIAN SPOKESMEN MAY WISH RESPOND TO THESE PRESENTATIONS.
- 3. U.S. MEMBERSHIP ON JC WILL INCLUDE SUB-CABINET LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMERCE, DEFENSE, TREASURY, PLUS THE AMBASSADOR AND REPRESENTATIVES OF AID AND OPIC. OTHER USG REPRESENTATIVES COULD BE ADDED AS REQUIRED BY JC AGENDA.
- 4. A SECOND AND MORE EXTENSIVE MEETING OF JC COULD TAKE PLACE ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATE IN TUNIS. FYI: IN PRINCIPLE, ONE MEETING PER YEAR SHOULD SUFFICE, BUT WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOT MAY PREFER TO HAVE SECOND MEETING IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LATE 1975 RATHER THAN SPRING OF 1976. IF SO, AND IF GOT OFFERS TO HOST SUCH A MEETING, USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT. END FYI. LEVEL AND EXTENT OF TUNISIAN REPRESENTATION WOULD BE GOT PREROGATIVE, BUT THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT USG CABINET-LEVEL TRAVEL TO TUNIS PROBABLY COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED RELIABLY TO COINCIDE WITH JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS.

5. EMBASSY LIST OF SUBJECTS WHICH USG COULD RAISE, AS
DETAILED IN TUNIS 0457, INCLUDES SOME ITEMS WHICH SEEM
OVERLY SPECIFIC FOR DISCUSSION IN JC (E.G., CARTHAGE
CEMETARY AGREEMENT) BUT WHICH COULD BE INCLUDED IF EMBASSY
HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR INCLUSION ON AGENDA

WOULD BREAK A BUREAUCRATIC LOGJAM. FYI: REGARDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, JC SHOULD BE ABLE TO REINFORCE PREVIOUS EXPLANATIONS OF LIMITATIONS ON USG RESOURCES AND CONFIRM CENTRAL ROLE OF ALREADY ONGOING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN AID MISSION AND GOT. JC MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE USEFUL FORUM TO DISCUSS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USG ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND GROWING ROLE OF AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR. IN SIMILAR VEIN, US SIDE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO REINFORCE PRIMARY CONSULTATIVE ROLES OF USLOT FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, USIS FOR CU PROGRAMS, AND EMBASSY FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT, ITEMS ALONG LINES OF THOSE LISTED AT CONCLUSION OF TUNIS 0457 WOULD BE DESIRABLE SUGGESTIONS FOR JC AGENDA. END FYI.

- 6. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY THAT POLITICAL QUESTIONS, SUCH AS UN VOTING, ARE BETTER LEFT TO MORE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.
- 7. EMBASSY SHOULD CONSULT WITH HOST GOVERNMENT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND REPORT TUNISIAN REACTIONS TO THE FORE-GOING. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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